

## Shakeup In The CIA

The impending shakeup in leadership of the Central Intelligence Agency comes as welcome news after that unit's inexcusable folly in plotting and coordinating the disastrous Cuba invasion. This incident alone—without considering the CIA's long list of other improper intrigues—is enough to faze the suspicion that the agency's chief, Allen Dulles, has outlived his usefulness. Even more, it shows that a close look should be taken at the agency itself, whose functioning seems to have outgrown by far its original purpose.

The CIA was set up by Congress in 1947 to function as a collector of information. This information then was to be used by the government's policy-determining branches—not the CIA. The agency, however, with an extraordinary autonomy, an annual budget estimated anywhere from \$500 million to \$1 billion, and the leadership of rightist, militaristic Dulles, has found it almost impossible to keep its fingers clear of the policy pie.

That the CIA's tendency to shape foreign affairs is a dangerous one has been proven again and again. The record extends back

even to the days of King Farouk, whom the CIA helped overthrow in favor of Gamal Abdel Nasser—now leader of the Arab League. Other incidents in which the agency played more than its ordained part include the Iranian revolt in 1953, when a pro-Western but graft and corruption-ridden regime was helped into power; the Lebanon invasion by U. S. marines in 1958, which evoked consternation of uncommitted Afro-Asian countries, and the recent fiasco of Laos, in which the seating of a pro-Western but weak General Phoumi only served to send the displaced neutralist, Prince Souvanna Phouma, over to the Communist side and further strengthen the Red guerillas.

This was not the functioning Congress intended for the CIA. World affairs hang on a delicate balance and, as the evidence bears out, it takes statesmanship, not the militaristic brashness to maintain that balance. It is time for our representatives to retrieve their policy-making responsibilities back from the CIA—by means of a thorough Congressional investigation and erection of any checks deemed necessary.